

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, February 11, 2016

9 a.m.

**Rutledge Room  
Minutes**

DRAFT  
FOR BOARD APPROVAL

1. Call to Order: Chairman James Hanson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call by Town Clerk: In addition to Chairman Hanson, present by roll call were Supervisors Randy Sorensen, Kirby Foss and Elizabeth Holmes; John Rader was excused. Also in attendance were Public Works Director Jonathan Mann and Airport Director Walther Nehlsen.
3. Telephone conference with Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics re airport obstruction removal plan. Hal Davis from the Bureau represented the Bureau along with Gayle Stearn, Project Manager; Mary Strait, Program/Funding Manager; Justin Hetland, Airspace Safety Manager; Mark Pfundheller, Airport Inspector; Diann Danielsen, Real Estate Project Manager, and Kevin Sielaff, Mead & Hunt. Chairman Hanson stated the Town is looking at the two options open, to accept the responsibility of the tree trimming or to accept State and Federal help to do the engineering work. He asked, if the Town applied for monies, what would the process to do that entail. Hal Davis stated the process would be to hold a public hearing, petition the governing authorities for approval, have the project manager develop an eligibility statement, and then have the eligibility committee examine the petition and determine what work would be eligible for federal and state aid for obstruction removal. A high priority would be assigned to the project due to its impact on safety. A consultant would be engaged to oversee and design the scope of the project. The project would be let publicly; Davis estimated the time frame would be this coming fall and winter. Marc Arnolds stated there may be some other issues involved in the process, such as environmental issues and eminent domain/easement rights.

In response to the acquiring of easements, the Gayle Stearn of the Bureau clarified that the Town would own the easements but the Bureau could assist in obtaining them as the Town's agent. This would allow the Town to control the airspace and therefore maintain it going forward. Supervisor Sorenson asked about a NODEM; he also stated over the years conflicting information has been given to the Town about how to proceed. The Bureau stated they

would not encourage or support a NODEM as the runways do not meet basic FAA safety standards and the FAA would agree.

If the Town lets the current structure remain that would indicate to the Bureau that the Town has no interest in serving the public invested in that airport and the Town has no interest in protecting it or assuring future grants. He referred to the letter of December 15th from Hal Davis to the Clerk as clarification of the Bureau's position. Supervisor Sorensen brought up confusion about the existence of the Island heliport; the Bureau acknowledged the weather station was being held up due to FAA paperwork but it seemed "to be cleared up".

Hal Davis stated the first step would be to petition; the definition of the project needs to be defined before proceeding with that. The Bureau needs to know how the Town is going to secure the rights to the property, height limitation zoning, air right easement purchases, or a combination of the two. That will dictate the petition. Acquiring the easements means the FAA will pay for the first clearing; thereafter maintenance would be local. Supervisor Sorensen brought up the need to bury the power lines. The Bureau stated they have buried power lines for eligible projects. Sorensen asked about the steeple on Bethel Church; the Bureau stated that is a local decision and stated he did not recall this as an issue.

Kevin Sielaff from Mean & Hunt stated the steeple did not come up as an obstruction on the Lydar data. Chairman Hanson clarified that the correct set of drawings was being used at this time; Justin Hetland verified correct drawings are being used.

Supervisor Sorensen talked about the cost of maintenance of the airport; Chairman Hanson asked if the airport could be closed in winter. Gail stated the issue is the question of use of Federal and State monies, the Town needs to determine what it wants to do.

Kevin stated many airports keep one runway open during the winter, cutting maintenance costs.

Chairman Hanson stated the Town would determine its approach to the subject and advise the Bureau. Call was terminated; Walter Nehlsen stated the issue is the determination of going out 1,000 feet vs 2,500 feet. He understands Mark Pfundheller will come out to clarify. Valerie Carpenter, Clerk, stated the one option is to enforce the height limitation Ordinance of 1,000 feet; option two is to use the Lydar survey and go

after state money and proceed according to their requirements as discussed above. Discussion of the engineering firms clarified that Mead & Hunt are still responsible for the weather station. Chairman Hanson asked if the Town could have MSA engineering firm come to consult on the best way to proceed. Nehlsen stated he would contact MSA to determine if they could assist.

4. Review trash removal proposal from Advanced Disposal: Brian Hopkins and Steve Estes with Advanced Disposal were present to assist the Board in reviewing the trash disposal equipment, its use, and costs. Paper bales were discussed; Hopkins stated recyclables are not paying now. He suggested bringing up an open 30 yard container to be filled and removed as needed. There would be no rental if it turned around in a few days. He suggested separating paper from cardboard as cardboard brings more revenue. Compliance was discussed, especially with summer rental properties.

Today Hopkins and the Town crew will be survey landfill equipment and develop a plan with numbers/costs to submit to the Town for a contract. This will be submitted to the Board prior to the March meeting.

5. Adjournment: Chairman Hanson made a Motion to adjourn; second by Supervisor Sorensen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Valerie Carpenter, Clerk/Treasurer

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Elizabeth Holmes, Acting Chairman

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Randall Sorenson, Supervisor

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Kirby Foss, Supervisor

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John Rader, Supervisor